

## Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS PROJECT OFFICE 10808 HIGHWAY 93, UNIT A GOLDEN, COLORADO 80403-8200

JAN 1 2 2005

04-DOE-00856

## Dear Community Member:

The Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) is the environmental regulatory framework for the cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Site or Rocky Flats). As required by RFCA and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), Rocky Flats has a Site-Wide Integrated Public Involvement Plan (SWIPIP). This plan involves the public by providing information about the Site, providing opportunities for an open, ongoing, two-way communication, and allowing for input in the decision-making process.

This plan has been reviewed and updated as required by RFCA and incorporates information regarding the accelerated cleanup and closure through the physical and regulatory completion of the Site. The enclosed SWIPIP is being made available for 45-day public comment. The formal public comment period will begin on January 24, 2005, and continue through March 9, 2005.

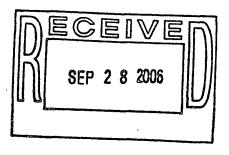
During the review process, the Department of Energy (DOE) received input on the SWIPIP from stakeholders requesting the Rocky Flats Project Office define and include post-closure public involvement activities. This SWIPIP does not incorporate these activities because the scope of this plan aligns with current public involvement activities through regulatory closure. However, this information has been forwarded to the Office of Legacy Management (LM) for consideration.

The DOE Offices of Environmental Management (EM) and LM are committed to involving the public in key transition policy decisions. As we continue to transition from EM to LM, we will continue to ensure early and meaningful public involvement with Rocky Flats stakeholders on long-term stewardship activities. As we discuss these activities, LM is committed to the following public involvement activities:

- hold annual meetings summarizing annual monitoring and inspection results
- conduct technical quarterly data exchanges for two years following physical completion
- maintain and update a web-page containing Rocky Flats information through a LM web-site
- maintain records and the availability of records through web-based approaches
- maintain a copy of the Administrative Record in close proximity of the Site
- maintain the current Rocky Flats Reading Room with an annual review of the usage and viability
- engage in meaningful public involvement with Rocky Flats stakeholders and the community on the development and establishment of a Local Stakeholder Organization for Rocky Flats

The SWIPIP includes opportunities for upcoming public involvement activities through regulatory completion. Additionally, public involvement opportunities for implementing the Meliporandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Department of Interior (DOI),

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) certification of the cleanup and the periodic review will occur after the physical completion. The following is a description of these steps:

The MOU between DOE and DOI: The MOU defines how the parties will work together in transferring administrative jurisdiction of the Site from DOE to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001 (Refuge Act) also requires the DOI to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) with numerous opportunities for public participation. The CCP is a long-term management plan that describes the desired future conditions and defines the goals and objectives of the refuge for wildlife habitat and public use.

<u>EPA Certification:</u> Before DOE can transfer any land to USFWS, the EPA, under the terms of the Refuge Act, must certify that the cleanup is complete and the remedy is operating successfully. After EPA certification, the DOE will transfer most of Rocky Flats to the USFWS.

<u>Periodic Review:</u> A periodic review of the remedy is required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This review will take place at least every five years and will determine whether the remedy at Rocky Flats remains protective of human health and the environment, or if additional actions need to be taken by DOE. A review will be conducted by LM in accordance with CERCLA requirements and will be outlined in the RFCA post-closure agreement and during the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision process.

Copies of the documents are available for review at the Rocky Flats Reading Room at the Front Range Community College and on the Rocky Flats webpage: <a href="www.rfets.gov">www.rfets.gov</a>. For additional information please call Karen Lutz, Department of Energy, at (303) 966-4546.

Send written or e-mail comments to:

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Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this draft plan.

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Enclosure

Sincerely,

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